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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 72% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 84,544 | Nifty 25,790 | Gold 74,014 | Silver 90,080 | Dollar 83.48 | Euro 93.25 | GBP 111.17

EXAM FEVER

PU mid-terms in flux as education dept yet to clarify who will organise exams, prepare question papers

PAGE 2

FESTIVE GREEN

Citizens urge govt to enforce safety measures, collaborate better to impose strict ban on polluting crackers

PAGE 5

Roads earmarked for redevelopment have already undergone significant upgrades recently, many of these are still in defect liability period raising questions on exact purpose of these projects

DOUBLE BONANZA

Initiatives like white-topping, tunnel road going on despite criticism

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In an effort to address Bengaluru's notorious traffic congestion, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has launched several major projects, including white-topping, high-density corridors, junction improvements, last-mile connectivity, and the construction of tunnel roads. However, these initiatives have raised concerns as some of the roads earmarked for redevelopment had already undergone significant work, with many still under the defect liability period. This has led to questions about the rationale behind spending crores of rupees on roads that were just recently upgraded.

Multiple bills for the same work

Sources said that currently, the BBMP is executing improvement works along nine high-density corridors, covering a total of 117.2 km. These upgrades, which include the development of drains, footpaths, and the resurfacing of asphalt roads, are estimated to cost ₹273 crore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"There is a lack of transparency regarding the purpose of upgrading already-developed roads, such as Ballari Road. While some proposals include road widening, there is also a plan to construct a tunnel road stretching from Esteem Mall in Hebbal to Silk Board Junction

— Civic activist

Rage of the motorist

21 cases of road rage till Aug, since then one case a day being recorded

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Bengaluru has seen a surge in road rage incidents, with several violent altercations reported in the past months. Official statistics show that as of August this year, 21 cases of road rage have been registered. Since then, the number of incidents has escalated, with an average of one case being reported each day.

If we look at the sequence of events in previous cases, the main causes of road rage include traffic congestion, aggressive driving behaviour, and poor lane discipline. Police authorities agree. "It's important to remember that road rage is often provoked by actions like reckless driving or alcohol influence. A minor incident, such as a vehicle touch or an attempt to overtake, shouldn't justify aggressive reactions," said DCP Traffic East, Kuldeep Kumar Jain.

The frustration is often worsened by inadequate infrastructure, leading to heightened stress among drivers, contributing to these altercations. The growing traffic chaos amplifies such negative behaviours and outbursts.

"It's common for motorists to experience stress and frustration while driving, which can lead to verbal arguments and even physical assaults over minor issues, as seen in past road rage incidents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

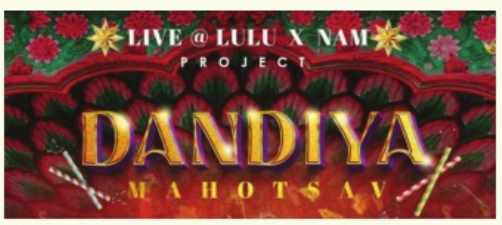
01 Natya and grace

Debnrutyam Studio presents the third edition of Aum Panchamritam, a vibrant celebration of Indian classical dance. This year's festival, themed "Guru Shishya Parampara," pays homage to the sacred tradition of the teacher-student relationship, a cornerstone of Indian classical art forms. The event will showcase an amalgamation of classical dance styles performed by distinguished artists and their disciples, providing a unique opportunity for attendees to immerse themselves in India's rich cultural heritage. **Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar; When: September 22, 4.30 pm**

02 Textile and jewellery exhibition

The Crafts Council of Karnataka presents Vastrabharana – its annual flagship exhibition and sale of handcrafted textiles and jewellery. This year, the theme of Vastrabharana borrows from Rutugalu - the five seasons of India - Spring, Summer, Monsoon, Autumn, and Winter. The change of seasons influences the materials, designs, motifs and use of different textiles throughout the year. For craftspeople, it also affects different processes and methods that rely on the weather, such as natural dyeing and block printing processes, or the availability of certain raw materials. **Where: Chitrakala Parishat; When: September 27- October 1, 10 am to 7.30 pm**

03 Dandiya night



Get ready for an unforgettable night of music, dance, and vibrant energy at Dandiya Mahotsav. Celebrate the festive spirit with traditional dandiya beats, live performances, and colorful festivities. Bring your friends and family, grab your dandiya sticks, and dance the night away. **Where: Lulu mall; When: October 5 and 6, 6 pm**

Poise and elegance

Nataraja Nrithya Shala presented 'Nrithya Samarpanam' featuring Rishika Sathish Reddy and, Smrithi Vinod Saladi, guided by Guru Vidushi Vasundhara Sampath Kumar. The captivating dance recital held at Chowdiah Memorial Auditorium showcased the duo's skill and rhythm

No info on first PU mid-term exams, students concerned

Education department yet to clarify who will conduct exams, leading to uncertainty about how it will be organised and who will set question papers

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Announcement of exam schedule expected soon, and mid-term exams for both 1st and 2nd year PU students supposed to take place shortly after and still no clarity has been given

A million-dollar question on students' minds is who will be responsible for conducting the mid-term exams for the first-year pre-university (PU) students this year. The education department is yet to clarify, leading to uncertainty over who will organise the exams and prepare the question papers.

For the first time, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has decided to directly conduct mid-term exams for SSLC (10th standard) students this year. Preparations, including the distribution of model question papers and exam-related information, have already been completed. KSEAB has also released model question papers for second-year PU students. However, the confusion around who will handle the exams for first-year PU students remains unresolved. The announcement of the exam schedule is expected soon, and mid-term exams for both first and second-year PU students are supposed to take place shortly thereafter. Still, there has been no clear communication from the department regarding the preparations for the first-year PU exams, including the release of model question papers. This uncertainty has sparked concerns among students and PU colleges.

According to the latest data for the academic year 2023-24, a total of 7,21,643 students are enrolled in pre-university (PU) courses. Of these, 1,99,637 students are pursuing studies in the Arts stream, while the Science stream has 2,91,647 students. Additionally, 2,30,359 students are enrolled in the Commerce stream. While model question papers for SSLC and second-year PU were released just four days ago, they contained numerous errors that need to be corrected immediately. KSEAB has developed its own site for entering second-year PU internal marks and other details. However, for first-year PU, they still insist on using SATS (Student Achievement Tracking System).

> **"Post introducing KSEAB for conducting SSLC and PU exams, the board has taken over the task of preparing question papers**
> – Dr Harish Acharya, educationist

Dr SR Harish Acharya, an educationist said, "The department used to handle both the exams and the preparation of question papers. After the introduction of KSEAB for conducting SSLC and PU exams, the board has taken over the task of preparing question papers. The PU department is now limited to administrative functions. Since no decision has been made regarding the first-year PU exams, the situation has become complicated." A first-year PU student said, "The uncertainty surrounding our mid-term exams is really stressful. We're not sure who will conduct the exams or what the format will be, and it's affecting our preparation. With no clear communication from the education department, it feels like we're studying in the dark. We just want clarity so we can focus on doing our best, rather than worrying about how the exams will be organised or when the question papers will be ready. A little transparency would go a long way in easing our anxieties."

₹25 lakh seized in CBI raid on Customs official

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Ramesh Chandra Tripathi, Superintendent of Customs at the Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Whitefield, on charges of illicit enrichment. The case, filed on September 21, stems from allegations that the officer had been intentionally accumulating wealth through illegal means during his tenure.

Acting on reliable information that customs officials at ICD Whitefield were accepting bribes, a joint operation was conducted by CBI officials in coordination with officers from the Directorate General of Vigilance, Customs, and Central Tax on September 20 and 21. During this operation, CBI officers recovered over ₹25 lakh in cash from the possession of the accused superintendent.

Additionally, a search of Tripathi's residence in Bangalore led to the discovery of incriminating documents, further supporting the allegations. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are inspecting other possible links and evidence tied to the case.

Park gate crashes, killing 11-year-old

In a tragic accident on Sunday evening, an 11-year-old boy, Niranjan, was killed due to severe head injuries when a large iron grill gate at the entrance of Rajashankar Park (Kulla Park) in Malleshwaram collapsed on him. Niranjan, a resident of Vivekananda Block Slum on Dattatreya Temple Street, had gone to the park to play with his 13-year-old friend around 4 pm.

According to police reports, the incident occurred when Niranjan attempted to pull open the main gate, which fell and crushed him. "The boy sustained severe head injuries and significant blood loss," a senior officer stated. He was rushed to KC General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Initial investigations suggest that the hinge on the left side of the gate may have been rusted, contributing to the accident. An eyewitness reported hearing a loud noise while playing cricket with friends and saw the gate fall on Niranjan, while the other boy narrowly escaped. Together with a nearby tender coconut vendor and passersby, they helped pull the boy from under the gate and rushed him to the hospital, where he was found to have severe head injuries and bleeding from his ears.

The park, maintained by the BBMP, is frequented by many, including senior citizens and children. Following the incident, community members expressed their concern over the apparent negligence of officials, attributing the accident to a lack of maintenance.

Police are currently awaiting the post-mortem report and statements from the parents to register a case of unnatural death and continue their investigation.

Two killed in tractor and motorcycle collision

A fatal road accident occurred near Devanahalli, on Saturday, claiming the lives of two people when a tractor collided with their motorcycle during a right turn. The victims were identified as Rangappa, 55, a farmer, and his wife Sudha, 43, who was a homemaker. The couple was returning to their home in Hoskote after visiting Sudha's native village.

According to police, the accident happened around 1 pm at Devanagundi Cross, where the tractor struck their motorcycle while making a right turn, resulting in both victims' immediate deaths. Police noted that Rangappa was wearing a helmet, but Sudha was not.

The tractor driver, Bharat Kumar, 34, who had fled the scene was arrested later that day. Further investigation is underway.

Moving car catches fire, driver escapes unharmed

A Scorpio car travelling along the service road of Bengaluru-Hosur Road caught fire at midnight. The incident occurred when a bike rider noticed sparks coming from the vehicle and alerted the driver. Upon receiving the warning, the driver stopped to inspect the car. However, as soon as he opened the bonnet, the car ignited, and the fire quickly engulfed the entire vehicle.

Fortunately, the driver managed to escape unharmed, avoiding any injuries. The fire, which originated near the engine, rapidly spread, consuming the vehicle. The Parappana Agrahara police, who were stationed there, immediately contacted the fire department. Firefighters from the Electronic City Fire Station responded swiftly and extinguished the blaze.

No injuries were reported. Authorities are currently investigating and further details are awaited.

Over 700 private buses booked for violations

Bengaluru Traffic Police conducted a special city-wide drive on September 21st to enforce traffic safety among private bus drivers.

The operation primarily focused on identifying violations such as drunk driving and the use of shrill horns, both of which pose significant risks to road users.

During the drive, 2,057 private buses were inspected, resulting in six drivers being booked for driving under the influence of alcohol and 712 cases of buses using illegal shrill horns.

BM Finance Fundas

 # India's growth is expected at 7-7.1%, despite global challenges
- Deloitte South Asia CEO Romal S

Key updates on Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana: What you should know

The Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs has recently issued updated guidelines for the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana to regularise irregularly opened small savings accounts under the National Savings Scheme (NSS). Investors should take note of these latest guidelines to ensure compliance and proper management of their accounts.

Sukanya Samriddhi account opened by grandparents:

In the case of accounts opened under the guardianship of grandparents (who are not legal guardians), the guardianship shall be transferred to a person authorised by the law in force, namely the natural guardian (living parents) or the legal guardian, according to a circular by the Department of Posts circular dated August 21, 2024.

How to open a Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account with the Post Office:

If a family has opened more than two Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts under the scheme, the irregular accounts will be closed, as they are considered to violate the scheme's guidelines, according to the circular.

Sukanya Samriddhi account update: PAN and Aadhaar details required

The PAN and Aadhaar details of the account holder(s) and guardian if not already available will be obtained without delay and entered into the system before submitting regularisation requests to this office. The government has directed all post offices to take immediate steps to identify such accounts and notify account holders of the approved rules via all channels. All circles/regions/divisions are requested to proactively track situations that require regularisation to reduce inconvenience to small savings scheme account holders.

Can your Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account be closed?

"Only on receipt of the concurrence Budget Division, DEA, Ministry of Finance for regularisation of irregular accounts opened under various National Small Schemes, the Offices shall settle those accounts following the mentioned guidelines," the circular added.

What is Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana?

Sukanya Samriddhi account is a savings scheme devised by the Government of India to aid a girl child's financial stability for education and marriage. The scheme encourages every girl child's parent to deposit and create a corpus for her beneficial future.

What are the features of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana?

The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Plan established by the Government of India includes specific rules for account management. A minimum deposit of ₹250 per month is required, with a maximum limit of ₹1.5 lakh. The interest rate for this quarter is set at 8.2% per annum for the period from July to September, although this may change based on quarterly guidelines from the government. The account matures 21 years after its opening, and until the child reaches the age of 18, the account will be operated by the parents or guardians.

Which document is required to open a Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account?

According to the SBI website, "The application Form-1 for opening an account shall be accompanied by the birth certificate of the girl child in whose name the account is to be opened, along with required documents (Aadhaar and PAN) relating to identity and residence proof of the Guardian.

Birth certificate issued by the municipal authority, or any office authorised to issue birth and death certificate by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, or the Indian Consulate as defined in clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955)."

By Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

After 10 years, the state cabinet met at Kalaburagi last week. Instead of cars, the cabinet ministers opted to travel in KSRTC bus where Siddaramaiah was seen occupying the front seat

Sandalwood safe or silenced?

Tensions flared during a recent meeting at the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, with discussions focusing on safety and rights within the industry. Speaking to the media afterward, producer Sa Ra Govindu shared insights from the session, saying, "The Women's Commission Chairperson has briefed us on the necessary steps we need to take. I want to clarify to journalists that there is no need to establish a committee in Karnataka similar to the one in Kerala. The Kannada film industry has a legacy of 90 years." He added, "It's not just women who are facing issues. Many men are also struggling, and we are committed to ensuring justice for all, regardless of whether the complainant is male or female."

Beware of fake news

Highlighting the dangers of misinformation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah shared a recent personal example. "During my speech in the House, I quoted former Chief Minister Yediyurappa's remarks about the loan waiver scheme, where he questioned, 'Do we have a currency printing machine?' However, social media twisted the video, making it seem as though I had said those words. This is completely false," he explained. He emphasised that this fake news was deliberately created to mislead people about the government's guarantee schemes.

Arrest 'timing' questioned

The arrest of BJP MLA Munirathna from RR Nagar has ignited a fierce political battle between the ruling party and the opposition. Malleswaram MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan questioned the timing of the arrest, saying, "I find it curious that the MLA was arrested on a Saturday. Why couldn't it have happened earlier or later? It feels like a pre-planned, politically motivated move—he was arrested the same day the case was filed, ensuring he would spend the weekend in lockup." When asked about the allegations, Home Minister G Parameshwara dismissed the claims, stating, "The police acted swiftly once the complaint was lodged. It's incorrect to suggest that their actions were politically motivated or influenced in any way."

Technical challenges

During a press interaction about the inauguration of the Vande Bharat train between Pune and Hubballi, journalists questioned Minister V Somanna on why the Bengaluru-Dharwad Vande Bharat route had not been extended to Belagavi, while the Pune-Hubballi train was able to pass through Belagavi. Somanna responded, "Father, let me clarify that I've only been in this position for three months, so I cannot comment on what happened earlier. What I can say is that we've discussed all the relevant issues, and swift action will be taken."

Only Doordarshan

Actor Darshan who is currently lodged in the high-security cell of Ballari Central Jail, has had a television installed in his cell. However, jail authorities have clarified that only Doordarshan is available for viewing, and no private channels are allowed at this time. Following the TV installation, Darshan requested a chair and a pillow for his cell. Upon the denial of this request, the actor reportedly told the jail staff that he plans to approach the court for relief.

Can't say it publicly

After the MUDA scam involving CM Siddaramaiah came to light, several senior ministers have been expressing their aspirations for the CM's position. Amidst this, DCM DK Shivakumar's meeting with AICC leader Rahul Gandhi in the United States had sparked curiosity. When journalists questioned DKS upon his return from the US, he said "Who needs permission to meet the leaders of my own party? Is it possible to reveal everything I discussed with Rahul, or with Adichunchanagiri Swamiji, or with my family?

— Sridhar Vivan

NOTICE

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by **D Neeraja** and **D Kishore Reddy** having address at **Flat no T-1 Mana Primal no 2, 13th G Main, 3rd cross, Doopanahalli, HAL 2nd stage, Bengaluru-560008, Karnataka, India,** with the **Indiranagar Branch** of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** situated at **No 4002/A 100FT Road, H.A.L. 2nd Stage, Indiranagar Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 008.** All the 3 letters sent to D Neeraja and D Kishore Reddy calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by D Neeraja and D Kishore Reddy within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **23rd December 2024.**

NOTICE

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Locker hired by **M R Swayam Prabha** and **Jayalakshmamma** having address at **4, 1st Main Road, Domlur 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560071 Karnataka, India,** with the **Indiranagar Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** situated at **No 4002/A 100FT Road, H.A.L. 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 008.** All the 3 letters sent to M R Swayam Prabha and Jayalakshmamma calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by M R Swayam Prabha and Jayalakshmamma within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **23rd December 2024.**

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NOTICE

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by **T Sankara Reddy** having address at **RH 32, Shobha Adamus, Kannamangala Main Road, White Field, Hoskote Road, Bangalore-560067, Karnataka India,** with the **Indiranagar Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** situated at **No 4002/A 100FT Road ,H.A.L. 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 008.** All the 3 letters sent to T Sankara reddy calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by T Sankara Reddy within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **23rd December 2024.**

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NOTICE

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by **Alok kumar** having address at **802, block 2, hill ridge springs gachi bowli, Hyderabad-500032, Telangana, India,** with the **Indiranagar branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** situated at **No 4002/A 100FT Road, H.A.L. 2nd Stage, Indiranagar Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 008** and the rent for the Locker is due for past three years . All the 3 letters sent to Alok kumar calling upon them to operate the locker, have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Alok kumar within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **23rd December 2024.**

Agara Lake gets all cleaned up after festival

Citizen volunteers, BBMP workers remove 16 bags of solid waste, large PoP Ganesha idols from kalyani

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Post the BM report highlighting the lack of post-festival cleanup at the Kalyani (stepped pond) of Agara Lake, volunteers along with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) marshals took swift action to clear the litter left behind after Ganesha idol immersions. The clean-up effort resulted in the removal of 16 bags of solid waste, which included plastic bottles, flowers, arecanut plates, incense sticks, and other debris. In addition, large Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris (PoP) and other materials were being removed with the help of cranes operated by the lake department.

Raj, a member of the Ploggers Army, described the situation at the Kalyani as disheartening. "It was sad to see broken idols of Ganesha scattered all over the place. Thankfully, the lake department brought in cranes to remove the larger idols, wood, and mud. It will take at least a week to clear all of it," he said. Raj also emphasised the importance of proactive waste management, stating, "We cleared over 15 bags of dry waste. It's better to manage the waste before it accumulates, rather than regretting the damage afterward. Both the BBMP and citizens must take responsibility to prevent this from happening again."

The clean-up operation was not only focused on removing waste, but also on raising awareness about the harmful impact of using non-biodegradable materials in idol immersions. Many of the idols found at the lake were made of PoP, which does not dissolve easily in water and contributes to environmental pollution.

Usmani, a volunteer from the Ploggers Army, pointed out the way the festival's celebrations had led to pollution. "It was devastating to see the mess after the festival. People bring Ganesha home with so much devotion but fail to show the same respect when bidding him farewell. Many just throw the idols from bridges or dump them in lakes, polluting the water. We are aware of how harmful these idols are, yet we continue to use them. If we don't change our habits, we can't expect our environment to be clean and beautiful," said Usmani.

The volunteers hope that the recent clean-up efforts will inspire responsibility and awareness in the future, ensuring that festivals are celebrated in an environmentally conscious way.

Gap in child protection: Bengaluru needs ward-level committees

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The Child Protection Committee (CPC) plays an important role in protecting child rights and ensuring that children grow up in a protected environment. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) mandates the formation of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) to safeguard children and address concerns about their emotional and physical well-being.

There are child protection committees in rural areas at the panchayat level to discuss children's problems and implement child welfare schemes. However, there are no child protection committees at the ward level in BengaluruChild rights activists are urging the state government and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to establish child protection committees in each BBMP ward. They highlighted that many families migrate to Bengaluru for work, leaving some children vulnerable to child labour and marriage due to a lack of protection and awareness.

"Many people come to Bengaluru to work as construction workers. They bring their children to the city. There is no safety or protection for such children while their parents are at workplaces," said Shiva Kumar, Project Coordinator, Slum Janandolana Karnataka.

Child rights activists emphasised that the Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS) mandates the establishment of child protection committees in all villages and cities, as children cannot protect themselves from harassment and abuse. "The child rights activists have been demanding the government to form child protection committees at all wards of the BBMP for more than a decade but nothing has been done to date. The formation of child protection committees would be a great help for children. We are organising a training programme for child rights activists on the formation of child protection committees on Monday," said Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust.

He stated that he has already sent a letter to K Naganna Gowda, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), urging him to recommend the establishment of child protection committees in all wards of the city. "The KSCPCR Chairperson is expected to inaugurate the training programme. We will submit a memorandum to him for formation of ward-level child protection committes in the city" he said.

Push for green cracker regulations before Diwali

Citizens urge govt to enforce safety measures after last year's fire that claimed 17 lives; activists call for ban on non-compliant crackers and better collaboration among government agencies

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File photo: Fire crackers being ignited

Last year's tragic fire at a cracker shop in Attibele, near Bengaluru, claimed 17 lives. With Diwali approaching, citizens are now urging government officials to implement safety measures well in advance, a step that has been neglected for many years.

The Compassionate City and Public Health Action Team (PACT) have come forward to write a letter to the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Home Minister of Karnataka to ensure there is a ban on manufacturers who sell non-green crackers. In the letter they wrote, "The 2023 cracker tragedy at Attibele, where 17 people, including customers, lost their lives, has brought safety issues into the spotlight and has been strongly condemned by you, Hon Chief Minister Sir, and Hon Home Minister. As you are aware, the Supreme Court ruling of October 23, 2018, specifically bans non-green firecrackers nationwide, limits the burning of green crackers to between 8 pm and 10 pm, and prohibits the manufacture, sale, or use of crackers near schools or hospitals. While these regulations have been in place for some time, there has been a noticeable lack of stringent enforcement."

The Compassionate City has been working with the police every year on this initiative, and there has been a steady increase in responsiveness and action from the police department. In 2023, PACT (Public Health Action) took a further step by ensuring precautions before the festival and initiating discussions with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). Following this, a multi-stakeholder meeting was held, leading to the issuance of a circular calling for a multi-party task force to take action.

The groups demanded that, in addition to the enclosed circular from the pollution board, there should be pollution check equipment, a crackdown on illegal cracker sales, police training and awareness across all stations, posters at police stations and on Hoysala vans reminding the public about green crackers and safety norms, as well as specific awareness via police WhatsApp and telephone helplines. Station House Officers, along with their Hoysala, Cheetah, and teams, should be informed, trained, and available, working with local citizen committees, the Resident Welfare Association, and apartment associations to ensure all safety and health norms are followed. The elderly, ill, children, asthmatics, COVID-compromised individuals, and animals need protection. Amplifying this on social media and ensuring dissemination from top levels to (DCPs) Deputy Commissioner of Police, ACPs (Assistant Commissioner of Police), Zones, etc., is crucial.

> **"Shop carrying illegal load of non-green crackers exploded last year claiming 17 lives. Do we need more deaths?** – Harini R, PACT

Harini Raghavan, Co-founder of PACT, said, " No one is asking people not to burst crackers. But go green. There is a supreme court order and the Government of Karnataka must ensure that only green crackers (low emission and no barium) are manufactured, sold and purchased. A notice must go out to all stakeholders. The orders of the highest court have been flouted year on year. The order has been passed to protect the interests of young infants, senior citizens, patients and importantly, the environment. A shop carrying an illegal load of non-green crackers exploded last year claiming the lives of 17 people in Bangalore rural. Do we need more deaths? The GOK is answerable. They must step up to ensure that there is a blanket ban on non-green crackers."

Priya Chetty Rajagopal from Heritage Beku said, "It's critical for various parts of the government be it the police, pollution board, BBMP, etc to come together collaboratively to stop the sale of non-green crackers. Hopefully this year we can look forward to a festival of joy, prosperity and sparkle, but with respect for the city and its citizens."

Party by Panathur Lake turns tragic

In a tragic incident on Sunday evening, a 23-year-old man drowned in Panathur Lake after an afternoon of drinking alcohol and attempting to swim with friends. The deceased, identified as Anil, worked as a housekeeper and had gone to the lake with two of his friends, Dinesh, 26, also a housekeeper, and Upendra, a security guard. The incident occurred around 4 pm. According to police reports, the trio had been consuming alcohol before heading to the lake. While Anil and Dinesh entered the water to swim, Upendra stayed on the shore, recording the event to make a social media reel. Initial investigations indicate that both Anil and Dinesh knew how to swim.

The body was recovered later that evening after efforts by rescue teams. Police are currently investigating the incident and have registered a case of accidental drowning. They also suspect that Anil, the deceased, may have consumed more alcohol than the others, which likely contributed to his inability to swim properly.

"Though they were familiar with swimming, the influence of alcohol seems to have impaired Anil's ability to stay afloat," a police official said. The police also noted that Anil had sustained a head injury after falling from his scooter on Saturday, but they say that further information would be confirmed after receiving postmortem reports. All three men are originally from Nepal and have been living in Bengaluru for work. Further investigations are underway.

— BMB

'Patience & humility': CJI's key message to NLSIU graduates

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud stated on Sunday that true leaders acknowledge both their strengths and weaknesses. They leverage their strengths to uplift others while seeking assistance to address their blind spots.

Speaking at the 32nd Annual Convocation Ceremony of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), he emphasized the importance of individuality and the need for thoughtful decision-making."The process of decision-making is filled with uncertainty but this is hardly anything to be afraid of because it is precisely in these moments of uncertainty that your character is forged. Whatever your path is in the coming years, your own decisions are likely to have positive consequences and I urge you to embark on this journey with patience and humility as your companions," he said.

— BMB

Recognizing Excellence: Real Estate Industry Stalwarts Honoured at the Vijay Karnataka & Bangalore Mirror Real Estate Excellence Awards 2024

Realty's shining stars honoured

PICS: SRIDHAR KS

Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror hosted a prestigious event in Bengaluru to celebrate the giants of the real estate and construction industries with the Real Estate Excellence Awards 2024. The event was graced by Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, Malleswaram MLA Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, actresses Bhavya and Priya Shathamarshan, VK and Bangalore Mirror CEO Deepak Saluja, and VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli.

In a grand celebration of vision and achievement, Vijay Karnataka, the state's most read daily, and Bangalore Mirror, the city's youth-centric favourite, came together to honour the icons of the real estate and construction sectors at the prestigious VK & Bangalore Mirror Real Estate Excellence Awards 2024.

Leading the proceedings, Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, recognized the pivotal role that real estate developers play in making every individual's dream of home ownership a reality. "Home is where life begins, and the real estate sector is key to fulfilling this universal dream. Today, we honour those whose contributions are shaping our cities and transforming lives," remarked Somanna, highlighting the profound social impact of the industry.

Praising Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for its long-standing commitment to delivering not only news but also societal value, Somanna added, "In today's fast-paced media world, Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror continues to set a benchmark for accuracy, reliability, and its deep connection to the people of Karnataka." Malleswaram MLA Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan shared insights on the synergies between real estate and the IT sector, emphasizing how the industry's resilience and innovation have built the very infrastructure that drives the state's modern economy.

Deepak Saluja, CEO of VK and Bangalore Mirror, applauded the industry for its unwavering dedication to delivering affordable, high-quality housing. "These leaders are not only building homes but are also building communities, creating sustainable solutions, and pushing the boundaries of excellence," said Saluja. Editor of VK, Sudarshan Channangihalli, acknowledged the inspiring stories of the awardees, who, through their tireless efforts, have created numerous employment opportunities while embodying leadership and innovation. The event was attended by celebrities like popular actresses Bhavya and Priya Shathamarshan, who joined in celebrating the achievements of these stalwarts, making the evening truly unforgettable. This event showcased VK and Bangalore Mirror's ongoing commitment to recognising industry excellence, empowering the future of real estate, and celebrating those who are shaping the landscape of Karnataka for generations to come.

VK & BM REAL ESTATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024

Inauguration ceremony

What AWARDEES said

"This award will greatly encourage emerging builders in the real estate industry. Programs like these should continue to inspire others. Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror have set benchmarks in recognizing the contribution of real estate professionals, and such acknowledgment pushes us to strive for excellence and innovation in our field."
– Chandrachood BR, Founder, Bhaarath Builders

"There is no greater reward than recognition for work done with dedication and honesty. This award has motivated me to achieve even more. It reinforces the values of transparency and trust that we have built over the years, and encourages us to continue serving our clients with the highest standards of integrity." – Dr S.P. Dayanand, Director, DS Max Properties Pvt Ltd

"Being acknowledged with an award for my service brings immense encouragement. I'm grateful to Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror team for this recognition. It's a testament to the efforts we've made in the sector, and it drives us to keep pushing boundaries and delivering on the promises we make to our customers."
– Dr. E. Bhaskar, Founder & Chairman, ELV Projects Pvt Ltd

"This award honours hard work and integrity. It has increased my responsibilities and laid the foundation for further achievements. With this recognition, we are reminded of the impact we have on the lives of countless individuals and families who rely on us to provide safe and affordable homes."
– Sanjay Baid, Founder, Guru Punavaanii Properties Pvt. Ltd.

"Real estate is a challenging field, and receiving an award after 15 years of continuous effort is truly gratifying. It validates the passion and persistence we've put into every project, and I'm inspired to continue improving the quality of life for people in our city through our work."
– K.N. Surendra, Managing Director, KNS Infra

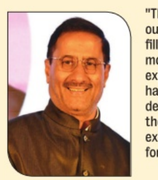
"Builders are seldom recognized or honoured. I sincerely thank Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror teams for acknowledging the efforts of real estate entrepreneurs and introducing their work to society. This platform not only encourages us but also helps highlight the essential role we play in urban development."
– Chandrappa, Managing Director, Mother Earth Farm Land

"I am proud to receive this award from Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for recognizing my work. I am confident that this will bring positive feedback for my company. Such recognition enhances our credibility in the market and encourages us to continue offering high-quality, innovative solutions to our clients."
– S. Jagadeesh, Founder and Managing Director, SG Groups Developers & Promoters

"This award has increased my responsibility and inspired others as well. It serves as a motivation to deliver even greater results, not just for our clients but for the entire community that we serve through our real estate projects."
– Dr. Vishwa Cariappa B.S., Chairman and Managing Director, Sancity Group of Companies

"I thank the Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror teams for recognizing and encouraging real estate achievers. This acknowledgment brings more visibility to the hard work that goes into shaping the landscape of our cities, and I'm excited to continue contributing to Bengaluru's growth."
– Yogesh Kumar, Founder, Sapthagiri Promoters & Developers

"Receiving this award from Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for recognizing our work brings immense happiness. This is a reward that belongs to my team and our customers. We remain committed to providing quality homes and enriching the lives of people who trust us with their dreams."
– Rajesh VM, Proprietor, Sharanya Farms



"This award has increased our responsibility and filled us with energy to do more. It's a reminder of the expectations that people have from us, and we're determined to keep raising the bar by delivering exceptional living spaces for all."
– Dr. D. Venkataramana Swamy, Founder, Sindhoor Developers

"This award has shown me the way to achieve greater success. I will continue to work honestly to meet the expectations of the people. This recognition pushes me to expand our vision of creating better, more sustainable living environments."
– Rajdeep Day, Managing Director, SNR Square Pvt Ltd.

"This award is the result of 22 years of hard work. I thank the Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore teams for selecting us for this honour. It's a validation of the consistent effort we've put in over the years, and it motivates us to continue delivering excellence in everything we do."
– Biren Kumar Sahu, CEO, Sowparnika Projects & Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

"This award has given me great encouragement. In the coming days, I aim to provide affordable quality education and healthcare to the underprivileged and middle class. It's not just about building homes, but also about building a better society."
– N. Narasimhamurthy, President, Telecom Employees & Others Housing Welfare Trust (R)

"By recognizing us for our service in providing housing, Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror have motivated us to continue working with renewed enthusiasm. This award reinforces our commitment to delivering value to our customers and helping more people achieve their dream of homeownership."
– H. Krishnamurthy, N. Subramanya & C. Sunil, K-Square Smart City (Sri Tirumala Property)

"I dedicate this award to my team, who work tirelessly with me day and night. May Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror's social initiatives continue. Together, we aim to continue raising the standards of quality and service in the real estate industry."
– Manish P.V., Director, V2 Holdings Housing Development Pvt. Ltd.

"Vijay Karnataka goes beyond news by recognizing achievers through its social initiatives. It is an honor to be awarded for my contributions. This award is a reminder of the impact we can make as developers, and I am inspired to keep making a difference in the industry."
– Venkateswaralu Murum Reddy, Managing Director, Vinayakaiah Builders & Developers Pvt. Ltd.

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HC rejects medical students' plea for grace marks

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The High Court has rejected a group of petitions submitted by undergraduate medical students who were seeking the addition of five grace marks to their January exam scores, which would have enabled them to pass.

The students' primary argument was that the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education (Amendment) 2019 allowed for the provision of grace marks, and they should be granted this benefit.

However, the Guidelines issued by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) on 1 August 2023, which was established under the National Medical Council Act, eliminated the awarding of grace marks. The students argued that the 2019 Regulations should take precedence over the Guidelines, and they should be awarded grace marks accordingly.

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences countered the petition, arguing that the Guidelines dated 1 August 2023, issued by UGMEB, should be interpreted as being passed under the authority granted by the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023. Therefore, the students' claim that the 2023 Guidelines are derived from the 2019 Regulations cannot be accepted.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav, presiding over a single judge bench, stated, "It is inherent in any system of education that evaluation standards and methodologies change and such an aspect is within the sole discretion of the academic bodies incharge of maintaining such standards."

Request to halt live streaming

The Advocates Association of Bangalore has sent a letter to NV Anjaria, the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, requesting a temporary halt to the live streaming of court proceedings. The communication, dated September 20, mentions that in recent days, the Karnataka High Court has been in the national spotlight due to controversial statements made by a particular judge during a case hearing that was being live streamed.

The association further states, "Serious controversies have erupted over the statements made by the learned judge Justice Sreeshanand and the same has gone viral all over India. Apart from the same it has hurt the sentiments of advocates young and old who have taken up this noble profession. Even advocates have been made an object of censure in some such statements."

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I, HEENA KALADGI, W/o Mohammed Isaq Dange R/o 104, Ds Max Spring Dale 5th Cross Road Lakeview Residency Rajanna Layout, Agara Horamavu Bengaluru 560043. I have changed my name to HEENA DANGE vide affidavit dated: 21/09/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Durgaprasad Rao R/O No 118, 3rd Floor, 14th Main Road, Muneshwara Block, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Blr-560086 changed my name from Durga Prasad Gandhal Shankar to Durgaprasad Rao for all future purposes.

I Zaheer Unnisa W/O, Sardar Ulla Khan R/o No 5-836 Ward No 27 N N T Road Shanthinagara Chintamani Karnataka - 563125 have changed my name to Zaherunnisa.

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Basic infra ignored, but agencies charging ahead with big-ticket projects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and have been divided into three separate contracts. In addition, a white-topping project spanning 147.97 km of roads is being implemented at a staggering cost of ₹1,800 crore, divided into 14 packages. Work has already commenced in several areas.

The practice of revisiting the same works and issuing multiple bills has raised allegations that BBMP officials are inflating old projects to justify new expenditures.

Meanwhile, basic infrastructure such as roads and footpaths, which are plagued by potholes, receive less attention compared to these expensive projects.

Key roads such as Hosur Road, Kanakapura Road, Mysuru Road, Outer Ring Road, Ballari Road, Old Madras Road, HAL Road, Magadi Road, and Tumakuru Road are all undergoing development.

Footpaths and drains on some of these roads were constructed just a couple of years ago, yet fresh budgets are being allocated for the same works. There are questions about whether existing footpath stones are being replaced or merely rebilled under new projects.

Overlapping Metro and road works

Several roads earmarked for high-density corridor upgrades are simultaneously seeing ongoing Metro construction. According to BMRCL's plans, the drains, footpaths, and roads affected by the Metro work are supposed to be developed by BMRCL itself and then handed over to the BBMP.

Nonetheless, the BBMP has opted to forge ahead with its own corridor development, raising questions about the necessity and timing of these upgrades. An activist said, "There is a lack of transparency regarding the purpose of upgrading already-developed roads, such as Ballari Road. While some proposals include road widening, there is also a plan to construct a tunnel road stretching from Esteem Mall in Hebbal to Silk Board Junction.

Despite the completion of white-topping and the development of drains and footpaths on roads like Mysuru Road and Outer Ring Road, additional funds are being allocated to further enhance these roads."

What about defect liability period

Old Airport Road has already seen significant improvements under the signal-free corridor initiative, while road expansion projects on Magadi Road and Bannerghatta Road are currently in progress.

"The final payment for the 7.5-km road expansion from JD Mara Junction to Koli Farm Gate, which cost ₹152 crore, has not yet been made, and the defect liability period has not ended. Meanwhile, Metro work is ongoing, and BMRCL is responsible for developing the footpaths, drains, and roads," another activist pointed out.

According to the activist, BBMP continues to pay contractors for similar works under separate road expansion projects.

"Despite these overlaps, BBMP is poised to spend crores of rupees more under the high-density corridor development scheme. Many of the roads slated for these projects have already been upgraded, yet the civic body is spending hundreds of crores once again in the name of further improvements," the activist said.

Push for quick implementation

Currently, there are no elected corporators as BBMP elections are long overdue and the administration run by officials remains eager to proceed with the costly white-topping project, which has often been criticised for its high expenditure and questionable benefits.

Keep calm, carry on riding, experts advise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Often, what starts as a small conflict can escalate into something much more serious," an official explained.

Impatient behaviour

Police authorities have observed an increase in road rage incidents getting more attention, especially as people record them on their phones and share them on social media. Additionally, police have suggested that motorists use dash cameras as they can record events and provide crucial evidence to help police determine who was at fault.

Experts attribute road rage to a lack of patience on the road.

Dr. GS Palaksha, senior psychiatrist, explains, "Motorists and drivers often lack patience on the road, especially those in a hurry like office workers and food delivery personnel.

While some manage to stay calm, others lose their temper due to stress, frustration, or even alcohol. Many road rage incidents arise from petty issues, like someone trying to overtake or a minor accident.

People need to understand how trivial these situations are and avoid escalating them," he said, adding that such incidents can also be prevented if people choose not to fight and resolve matters calmly on the spot.

112 is one call away

Shiva Prakash Devaraju, DCP Traffic South, told BM that drivers should call 112 to report incidents as a more effective way to handle potential road rage situations.

He advised against exiting your vehicle to confront the other party involved, suggesting that contacting the authorities is the safer option.

"Calling 112 ensures help arrives at the scene within five minutes. Instead of risking harm to other motorists on roads, I recommend reaching out to 112 in such situations to prevent any escalation," he stated.

HEALTH TIP: High levels of stress hormones like cortisol can disrupt hormone balance, menstrual cycles, and fertility

Almonds are a good source of energy and they reduce fatigue due to their vitamin B2 content

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Time to get cracking with calisthenics

Five ways this bodyweight workout can benefit your fitness

Calisthenics, a workout routine that has existed for centuries, has seen a major resurgence in recent years – partly due to its simplicity and effectiveness. Celebrities including Chris Hemsworth and Jamie Foxx swear by this style of training, which has been used since at least ancient Greek times.

Rooted in movements that resemble gymnastics, typical calisthenics exercises include push-ups, squats and lunges. This training method harnesses gravity and your own bodyweight to build strength, flexibility and endurance. It's incredibly versatile and can be performed almost anywhere, as you don't need any equipment. It's also extremely beneficial for health and fitness in more ways than you might realise. Here are just a few of the benefits these no-frills bodyweight workouts can have.

Boosts core strength

Calisthenics strengthens the deep core muscles in your abdomen and back, which play a crucial role in supporting and stabilising the spine.

By strengthening these deep core muscles, calisthenics improves coordination, which in essence makes your body more resilient and responsive – helping you avoid accidents and injury in your day-to-day tasks. A stronger core helps you maintain better posture and have control of your movements, lowering risk of muscle strains, pulls or missteps when performing everyday activities such as lifting groceries or bending down to pick something up.

Calisthenics exercises such as planks, hollow body holds and mountain climbers are great for targeting the deep core. Performing these exercises as part of a regular workout routine (around 3-4 times a week) will help strengthen your muscles essential for balance, stability and coordination.

Better heart health and metabolism

Simple calisthenic exercises, such as squats, arm circles and lunges, can have a big effect on health – especially for people who are sedentary. One study found that sedentary adults who did calisthenics three times a week for ten weeks saw positive improvements in their blood pressure, resting metabolic rate, heart rate and body fat levels. Such improvements could contribute to better heart health and metabolism in the long run.

Builds muscle and strength

Calisthenics is a great way to build serious muscle strength and endurance. This makes it a good workout for young adults, as it may help prevent the natural loss of muscle mass and strength that happens as we enter our 40s and 50s.

Focusing on functional movements that mimic everyday tasks, such as squats and push-ups, can help promote longevity and prevent injuries. Isometric holds such as wall sits or planks can help build muscle and endurance, while dynamic movements such as lunges and squats can help maintain balance and mobility.

Calisthenics is also a great way of breaking up long periods of sitting during the workday. Short bursts of movement will help prevent stiffness, poor circulation and muscle weakening while keeping your metabolism active. It also reduces the risk of issues like back pain, heart disease and diabetes by re-engaging muscles and improving blood flow.

> **One study found sedentary adults who did calisthenics thrice a week for 10 weeks saw positive changes in blood pressure, heart rate, body fat levels**

Improves motor skills

For children and teens, calisthenics can help them develop coordination, strength, and motor skills. Activities such as running, jumping and climbing, as well as bodyweight exercises such as push-ups and squats, help children build functional strength and agility.

Reduces risk of falls

The risk of falls and injury increases with age. But bodyweight exercises that improve stability and coordination can significantly reduce this risk.

Gentle calisthenics exercises help improve joint health, flexibility and muscle tone, which are crucial for staying active and independent.

Calisthenics also helps maintain muscle strength and bone density, which are key to preventing frailty and preserving independence in older age.

Chair squats, modified push-ups (on your knees or against a wall), standing leg raises, arm circles and calf raises are all examples of calisthenics exercises that older adults can do. Calisthenics has also been shown to improve cognition, mood and even sleep disorders in older adults.

How to get started

While calisthenics is a highly effective and accessible workout, it comes with potential risks – particularly when performed incorrectly or without proper preparation.

For beginners, to minimise the risks and maximise the benefits of calsithenics training, here's what you should do:

Warm-up and stretch: A proper warm-up will prepare the muscles and joints for calisthenics. Dynamic stretching, such as leg or arm swings, will prepare the body for exercise.

Focus on form and progress gradually: Before attempting advanced exercises or increasing the intensity, beginners should focus on mastering the correct form. Start with simple exercises and gradually build strength. For example, begin with wall push-ups before progressing to full push-ups on the floor. Concentrate on good form over the amount of repetitions you do of an exercise. Quality over quantity is key in preventing injury.

Strengthen core and stabilising muscles: Core strength is crucial in calisthenics for maintaining proper posture and preventing injuries. During each workout, aim to include a core exercise, such as planks, to build a stable foundation for other movements.

Watch where you workout: Whether you exercise indoors or outdoors, always make sure you're performing movements on even, stable surfaces.

Calisthenics can be a highly effective form of exercise for building strength, flexibility and endurance. It's also low-cost and versatile for people of all ages and fitness levels. Just make sure you aren't jumping into workouts too quickly, so you can fully appreciate the benefits of calisthenics without injuring yourself.

(By Jen Wilson and Athalie Redwood-Brown Nottingham Trent University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

5 good fats

Coconut Oil
Coconut oil is a medium-chain triglyceride (MCT), which metabolises very differently from long-chain fats. It is directly absorbed into the bloodstream and provides quick energy. It helps boost your metabolism and, thus, aids in your weight-loss journey.

Ghee
This clarified butter is another worthy source of MCTs. It includes butyrate – a short-chain fatty acid that supports growth in beneficial gut bacteria. The gut and weight loss are related – the gut helps to process food's digestion and assimilation. Ghee is also a powerhouse of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K, all important for overall health.

Avocados
Though not an original addition to the Indian diet, over the past few years, the avocado has found great favour with health-conscious Indians due to the countless benefits it offers. Avocados are packed with monounsaturated fats, which prevent belly fat, hence helping the heart. Additionally, their high fibre content eases stool passage and keeps one full for long periods.

Nuts And Seeds
Nuts and seeds are full of good fats, proteins and fibre – all so valuable in any weight-loss diet. Two particularly nutritious nuts are almonds and walnuts. Rich in omega-3, these help the body reduce inflammation.

Olive Oil
Olive oil, particularly extra virgin olive oil, is a healthy fat for the body, and it can aid in losing weight. It is a powerhouse of monounsaturated fats and antioxidants, which, combined, are anti-inflammatory and good for overall health. It also boosts the flavour of food.

-Dr Rohini Patil, nutritionist, for Femina

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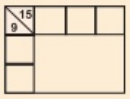
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



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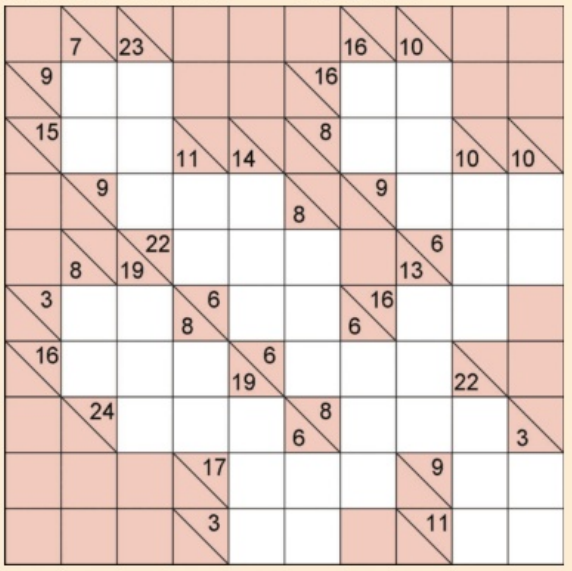
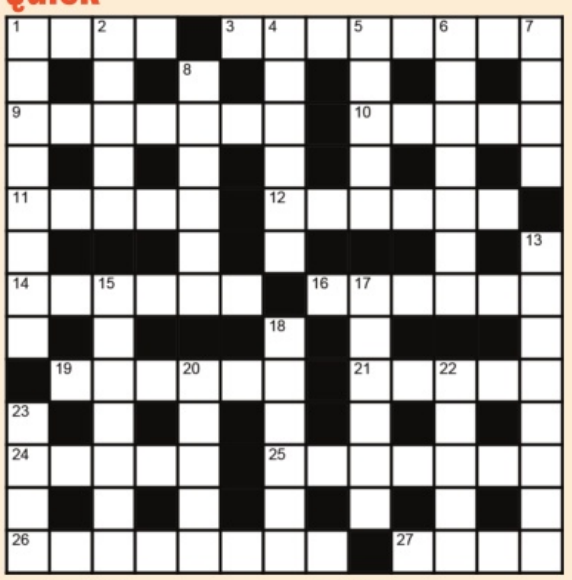
Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Soft drink (4)
3 Certificates of entitlement (8)
9 Sicilian strait (7)
10 Encounters (5)
11 Distinctive smell (5)
12 Make short visit? (4,2)
14 Runs away to marry (6)
16 Lets in (6)
19 An extra run for the batting side ? (3-3)
21 Small dog (5)
24 Extreme contempt (5)
25 Endurance (7)
26 Departs suddenly and secretly (8)
27 Shivering fit (4)

DOWN

1 Equates or likens (8)
2 Cowboy's rope (5)
4 Verbally (6)
5 Small film role (5)
6 Former academics (7)
7 Fair to middlin' (2-2)
8 The face or countenance (6)
13 Guess (8)
15 Burdensome, taxing (7)
17 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
18 Hired out for a long period (6)
20 Small drum (5)
22 Regretting (5)
23 Our continent (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T

NFB NBYN AK XAAS CIMMBWY PY NA RB EINPBMN UPNF NFB RIS AMBY.

Linemaro

Was your licence suspended for driving all the guys crazy?

Mindchow

Don't stress the could haves. If it should have, it would have

Joke of the day

Some people call me immature, but I just recently finished a 700-page book in only 4 days. I really love colouring in

Loop

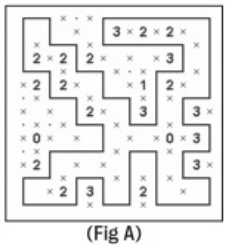
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

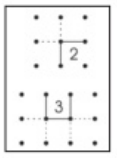
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

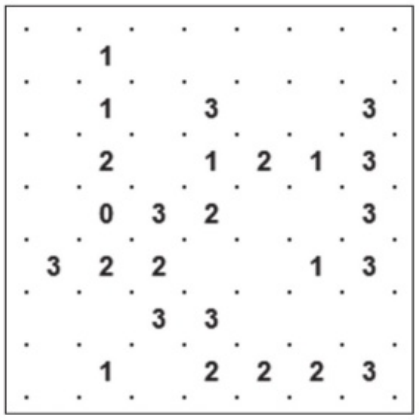
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



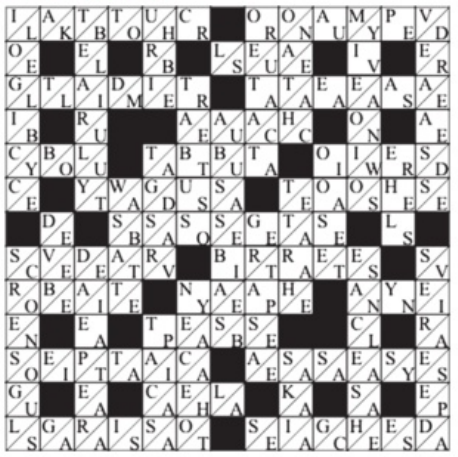
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



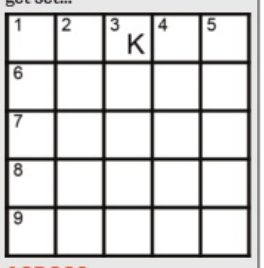
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

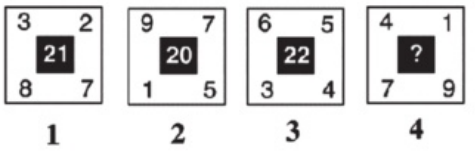
1 K real; 6 A mare; 7 Shoed; 8 Shade; 9 As err

DOWN

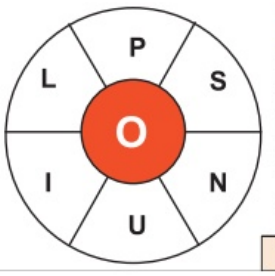
1 Aah LR; 2 Or sea; 3 Hakas; 4 Me ere; 5 Dr Des

Mensapuzzle

There is a certain logic in the boxes below that determines the centre numbers. Find the answer for box 4



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

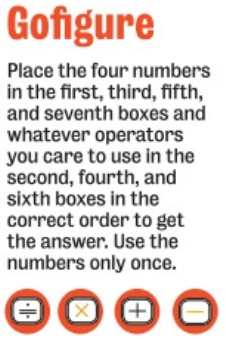
SudokuChallenge

			1	9		4	2	
9			7			8		
	1			3				5
					8	9		
	2	6				1	4	
		4	2					
6				8			7	
		3			2			4
	7	8		4	1			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hole is moved. 2. Hill is added. 3. Man's vest is missing. 4. Pocket is added to side of bag. 5. Woman's arm is not showing. 6. Boy's shirt is longer.

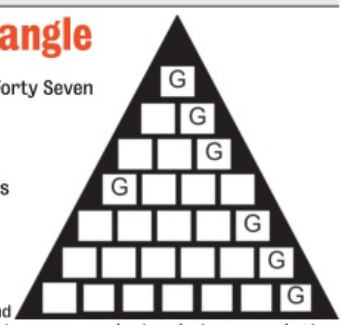
Riddler

See if you can figure out these words using the clues listed below. Each word ends with "BOARD". Please note that number 1 is two separate words. Have fun!

1) Old-time cars had two
2) Computers need them
3) College professor's headgear
4) Used in the Old West

Alpha triangle

1 Gravity, symbol
2 Atomic number Forty Seven
3 Pester
4 Bit of profit
5 Serving well
6 Tempo
7 Sleeping outdoors



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Isn't it odd that the captain calls everyone else "matey" but he calls me "chum"?
BIZARRO.COM ©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DEAN, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NEW KID, TOBY?
PLENTY! HE'S FROM ST. LOUIS. HE WEARS A BIONICLE BACKPACK, SO HE'S PROBABLY VERY COOL.
WAIT, WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
OH, NO REASON.
OOOUHH. HEART AND TOBY SITTIN' IN A TREE...
FWOOMP
I THINK I DESERVED THAT.

Crankshaft

SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE NEW STARBUCK JONES MOVIE, MASON?
I THINK WE ACHIEVED WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO...
WHICH WAS TO MAKE A MOVIE THAT WILL MAKE US SO RICH THAT WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO BE A GUEST AT ANOTHER 'STARBUCK JONES' CONVENTION AS LONG AS WE LIVE!
STARBUCK JONES III
THE RISE OF THE BANDELORIANS

Mutts

CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER, How DID You Two LEAVE THE SHELTER?
EASY.
EVERY NIGHT I PRAYED You WOULD GET ADOPTED.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE HEARD You.
IN STEREO
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dull and you may have health issues. Overworking your mind may make you tired. It may affect your domestic harmony. You may arrive late for a social or family get-together. Losses may be possible in the business; it is advised not to invest in new business. Love birds shall avoid being involved in controversies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may make new plans in terms of business, your colleagues may be with you to implement your plans. You may recover your stuck money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. After late evening, you may feel a low mood, which could affect your sound sleep.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Decisions in legal matters may come in your favour. Your seniors may be happy because of your hard work, you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find soul mates.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be happy, you may plan to buy creative things, which may improve your lifestyle. You may also spend on your friends and family members. You may plan to make investments in assets. Singles may have a good match, love birds may enjoy their important moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may seek peace of mind. Moon's blessings may help you to focus. Investments in property and other assets are advised to be avoided. You may have happy moments in your domestic life but be advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be polite with the people around you. Many problems may likely be resolved with the help of your way of speaking. There may be control between savings and expenditure, which may boost your savings. You may spend on buying some creative things to renovate your house.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are advised to control your way of speaking in the family. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless things to maintain your social status. It is advised to not keep your money in your pocket. You may face problems related to ears, teeth and throat.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day for you. You have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work, and domestic life may also be good. Healthy partnerships will give you benefits in terms of business. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Love birds shall avoid discussing self-respect issues.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you must control your way of speaking. You should be careful in terms of hidden enemies and opponents. You may be a victim of conspiracy. It is advised to avoid making investments in risky assets. You must avoid lending money to anyone as it may not be recoverable easily. It is advised to do meditation and yoga to come out from stress.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Impatient nature and arrogance will push you back from making tough decisions. You will need a blessing from your elders, which will help you grow. You should avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing bad moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are in the winning position from your opponents and hidden enemies. Your money which was stuck, may be recovered today. You may perform your best at work. An important day for love birds and singles to make important decisions in terms of marriage.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a good day for you. Last week's crunch is over now. You may initiate your postponed projects. You may get rewarded for your hard work, which may boost your confidence. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances. Natives related to export and import, fashions, and dairy products may do better.

KIDZONE

Tebin J Thattil, Bengaluru

Davina Tishbe Titus, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (8+10+12) / 10 = 30/10 = 3

RIDDLER
1) Running Board, 2) Keyboard, 3) Mortarboard & 4) Buckboard

BULL'S EYE
lion, loin, onus, opus, pious, silo, slop, soil, soul, soup, spoil, upon, UPSILON

QUOTE UNCODE
The test of good manners is to be patient with the bad ones.

FAST FIVE

L	A	K	E	R
A	R	A	M	E
H	O	S	E	D
A	S	H	E	D
R	E	A	R	S

STRIKE OUT

L	A	B	O	U	R		R	O	A	M	E	D		
E		E		D	E	R		S	E	A		I	R	
G	L	I		E		A	T		E	A	S	E		
	Y	O	U		A	B	U	T		O	W	E	D	
B		R		E	A	C	H		O		A			
	T	A	G	U	S		E	A	S	E	S			
D		B	A	S	S	E	T	S		L				
C	E	D	A	R		I	R	A	T	E		V		
O	B	I	T		Y	E	A	H		N	N	E		
N		A		P	A	S	S			C		R		
S	E	P	T	I	C		E	S	S	A	Y	S		
	U		E		S	H	A	M	E					
H	O	S	E	D										
A	R	A	M	E										
L	A	K	E	R										

QUICK

C	O	L	A		V	O	U	C	H	E	R	S		
O		A		V		R		A		M		E	T	
M	E	S	S	I	N	A		M	E	E	T	S		
P		S		S		L		E		R		O		
A	R	O	M	A		L	O	O	K	I	N			
S	C	O	R	N		S	T	A	M	I	N	A		
A		R		O		A		C		U		M		
L	E	G	B	Y	E		C	O	R	G	I			
S		N			L		E			T				
E	L	O	P	E	S		A	D	M	I	T	S		
R		G		Y				T		E				
A	R	O	M	A		L	O	O	K	I	N			
P		S		S		L		E		R		O		
M	E	S	S	I	N	A		M	E	E	T	S		
O		V		R		A		M		T		O		
C	O	L	A		V	O	U	C	H	E	R	S		
A	B	S	C	O	N	D	S		A	G	U	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
The answer is 18. Add the 4 numbers in the corners of box 1, which total 20. Place that total in the center of box 2, and so forth. 18 is the total of the four digits in box 3. 4+1+7+9 in box 4 totals 21, which is the number in the center of box 1.

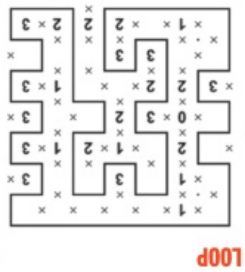
SUDOKU

2	7	8	6	4	1	5	3	9
1	5	3	9	7	2	8	6	4
6	4	9	5	8	3	2	7	1
5	9	4	2	1	7	3	6	8
8	2	6	3	5	9	1	4	7
7	3	1	4	6	8	9	5	2
4	1	2	8	3	6	7	9	5
9	6	5	7	2	4	8	1	3
3	8	7	1	9	5	4	2	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, A, N, A, I, N, G, A, I, N

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 3 + 3 – 8 = 3
Medium
3 + 5 + 9 – 9 = 8
Hard
2 x 6 – 6 + 4 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO

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Head-turner has arrived

Kriti shares pictures rocking different outfits from London Fashion Week

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon, who was recently seen in the heist comedy 'Crew', has shared pictures of herself from the recently concluded London Fashion Week. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a string of pictures in which she can be seen rocking different outfits.

In one of the pictures, the actress can be seen wearing a trench coat which is draped around her sleeves with added drama from the faux fur sleeves.

The actress then donned a monochromatic black look as she paired the fit to flare black dress with knee high boots and silver accessories, and looked absolutely stunning.

Lastly the actress sported a turtle neck blue checks dress, she paired the dress with an olive bag and knee high boots once again with a pair of sunglasses and looked mesmerising. Her appearance has struck the perfect balance between grace and sophisticated style. Earlier, this year in July, the actress bought a 2000 sq ft plot of land in the celebrity capital of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Alibaug. The land is situated in a prime location, and is less than 20 minutes away from Mandwa jetty.

Kriti, who has been increasing her real estate portfolio, purchased the plot at Sol De Alibaug, which is India's first signature land development and embodies exquisite design, lush green surroundings, and top-notch amenities. The recently inaugurated Mumbai Trans Harbour Link further enhances connectivity for the high profile investors seeking retreat in Alibaug's real estate landscape.

The sewerage and stormwater drains will be developed by HoABL.

Her other real estate investments include one in a commercial space in Bangalore and a villa in Goa. **–IANS**

Stop with the different standards

Academy Award-winning actress Kate Winslet, who will be seen playing the renowned photojournalist Lee Miller in the upcoming biopic "Lee", has spoken about the different standards set for male and female actors.

Winslet went on to speak on the topic in an interview during History Channel's "History Talks" at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on Saturday, "I quite like making statements. And actually, I have to say, I'm at the point where I'm just like, You know what? Life is too short," she said.

"But it is one thing that's been happening to me quite a lot recently, people will say to me, 'Oh, my God, so you were so brave in this performance, you had no make-up, and you look really kind of crappy.' And I think, do we say to the men, 'You were so brave, you grew a beard?' "And then there's another one, how do you juggle being a mother and having a career?" she added. **–IANS**

On the red carpet

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son looked every-inch dapper as he walked the red carpet for a bar launch here. Aryan was seen at the Thanks & Beyond club in the Nehru Place area in New Delhi. He made a showstopping entry wearing his luxury streetwear brand D'yavol. He looked handsome in a dark hued hoodie paired with a T-Shirt with the brand's name written on it with white and distressed jeans.

Upon his entry, Aryan made a short stop to pose for the media and then walked into the bar. Interestingly, the bar also had his vodka brand, which was launched in 2022, mentioned at the counters.

In other news, Aryan has given his voice for "Mufasa: The Lion King", in which his father Shah Rukh Khan voiced Mufasa.

Aryan has lent his voice to the character of Simba in the Hindi version of the film and his younger brother AbRam has given his voice to the character of Young Mufasa.

"Mufasa: The Lion King", depicts Mufasa's life from childhood to his rise as an incredible king, and revisiting this character has been exceptional. **–IANS**

Mama's mean role

Actor Emily Blunt, who received a lot of love and appreciation from the audience for her role in 'The Devil Wears Prada' said that for her kids, her part in the film was a bit scary, reported Page Six.

"They thought I was the meanest person they've ever met," said the actor, who shares Hazel, 10, and Violet, 7, with husband John Krasinski.

'The Devil Wears Prada' is a 2006 comedy-drama film directed by David Frankel. It stars Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci, and Emily Blunt.

In 'The Devil Wears Prada', Blunt starred as Emily Charlton, the first assistant to the tyrant of an editor, Miranda Priestly (played by Meryl Streep).

Blunt said, "It's incredible that it has such an indelible fingerprint on people ... and it's quoted to me every week." She shared that the cast, including Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Stanley Tucci, had a great time working on the film. . "At the time I was young, it was my first big movie," added Emily, reported Page Six. **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Travel diary

Director Roopa Rao, who earned fame for Gantumoote, makes a comeback after a gap of four years. Rao had also bankrolled the movie Kenda directed by Sahadev Kelavadi. Now, she has released the title – Gochara – of her new movie, a travelogue.

"It is a solo journey of the heroine from Kanyakumari to Ladakh. My own experience in travelling has inspired me to write the script for this movie. Generally, parents do not like their daughter travelling alone. What is the reason for it? They consider that it is not safe. I feel it is men that pose danger to women who travel alone. The movie showcases how a man looks at a woman who travels alone," says Rao.

The director said she is looking for a multi-lingual heroine to play the lead as she is thinking of making it in multiple languages. "The lead role is very challenging. The heroine has to be ready to travel for many days and be ready to face the camera at different locations. As of now, I am focusing on the script. I am waiting for the winter to start shooting. I plan to wrap up the shoot in 4-5 schedules," she said.

Trailer is out

The team of Prakarana Thanikaa Hantadallide (Case is under investigation) is excited about the release of the movie scheduled for October 18. So far, the film's motion poster, poster, and title track have received good response.

A function was organised on Saturday at Renukamba Preview Theater to release the trailer of the film that was unveiled by Dr Shivanna, the father of producer Chintan Kambanna. Dr Shivanna has written the lyrics for the title track of the movie.

"The quality of the script made me write the lyrics. I wish all the best to the cast and crew," Dr Shivanna said.

Producer Kambanna said he wanted to become part of the cast of the movie but decided to bankroll it too, apart from playing a key character in the movie. "My association with theater artists made me contact director Sundar S. I came to know that Sundar has written a script," said Kambanna.

Sundar debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "It is a gripping crime thriller," said Sundar.